

Message from the Executive Director



Established in 1968 as a community-based, self-help agency, Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey works to break the grim cycle of poverty, inadequate schooling, and sense of hopelessness for Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth, through education and leadership development.

This report reflects the significant, positive accomplishments of Aspira during the year ending June 30, 1978. Aspira continues to reaffirm its advocacy role on behalf of New Jersey's Hispanic youth. In December, Aspira chaired the first Statewide Conference of Hispanics on Higher Education with over 150 representatives of New Jersey's Hispanic organizations and institutions of higher education in attendance. As a result of the conference, The New Jersey Association of Hispanics in Higher Education was established to urge improvements in affirmative action, admissions, and bilingual education. The Association will also work with state officials to assure an active role for Hispanics in drawing up New Jersey's new Master Plan for Higher Education. We see this as a significant step towards remedying underrepresentation of Hispanics in all aspects of college affairs.

Aspira also took the lead in making health care education more accessible to Hispanics. The agreement reached between the Hispanic community (with Aspira in the forefront) and the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, resulted in a new position for an Hispanic recruiter/counselor. The counselor has been hired and is now actively recruiting and counseling potential medical students for admission to the entire College network. The College also agreed to the outlines of a promising program aimed at increasing the recruitment of Hispanic faculty and staff.

In other advocacy areas, my staff and I served on the United Way's Community Planning Board; the Statewide School Watch Committee; the Regional Health Planning Council for metropolitan New Jersey; the Hispanic Directors Association; in the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund's class action against competency testing in New York City; and on two special task forces of the State Department of Higher Education.

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey is celebrating its tenth year of service to Hispanic teenagers with this graduating class. With the beginning of a new decade, Aspira's programs have expanded beyond helping only those with a clear potential for higher education. Now we are seeking out Hispanic teenagers outside the reach of a school-based approach. Aspira has vocational and adult education programs, neighborhood center-based clubs, juvenile

delinquency prevention programs, and most recently, programs in the creative arts. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the large number of teenagers too often considered losers. We are working diligently to expand into South Jersey so that we can serve students statewide. However, we are concerned about the impact of the dwindling commitment to the cities, the poor and minorities. Inflation continues while government spending for social services slants downward. This thrust hurts Puerto Ricans disproportionately. Puerto Ricans still have the highest drop-out rate and the lowest incomes in this nation.

We count on those in the private sector who have already shown us their spirit and support in the past to continue the effort with us to change these distressing statistics, and to help assure that every individual has the opportunity to live up to his or her potential.

Grizel Ubarry
Ms. Grizel Ubarry
Executive Director
March 1979

Program Report 1978

Introduction

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey serves teenagers and young adults from low-income families in Essex, Passaic and Hudson Counties. Our clients are mainly Puerto Rican, but we also serve other Hispanics, as well as White and Black teenagers. The range of young people is very wide. Some have left school and are in search of work; others are below grade level, have little incentive to attend school, and are in need of tutorial services and educational counseling. Some are students undecided about pursuing higher education and are looking for guidance to alternatives. Still others need to become involved in creative and productive activities to enhance their self-image and occupy their time constructively.

Aspira is dedicated to helping these teenagers break the poverty cycle, overcome the language barrier and pursue higher education goals and meaningful leadership roles which, in turn, will contribute to

the advancement of the Hispanic community throughout the State of New Jersey. The Aspira process encompasses leadership development, education counseling, home visits, career counseling, financial aid assistance and tutorial services.

During fiscal year 1978, Aspira provided educational, recreational and counseling services for a total of 2,146 Hispanic young people—500 more than the previous year. Close to 1,300 of these students were new to the program. Since it was founded in 1969, Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey has provided services to 5,448 teenagers and young adults.

Last year, Aspira helped 449 students gain admission to colleges, medical and graduate schools, as well as technical schools.

The following are program highlights from each of Aspira's three County Centers. The activities are listed as a measure of the wide range of opportunities which Aspira's program offers. Each Center, taking its cue from the students themselves, develops programs which the group agrees upon as deserving high priority. In this way Aspira provides a program which responds to the particular group's interests at that time, and offers a system for fostering the spark of motivation within each student.

Essex County Center

The Counselors at this Center provide in-school counseling services to two junior and six senior high schools where Aspira Clubs are also organized. In addition, these Counselors work with dropouts, young adults and pre-med college students. The Center offers special programs in pre-law, health careers, vocational and technical careers, and internships in health, business and social service. This year 13 students were placed in pre-medical summer enrichment programs and 27 in in-school internships in health careers. Since 1974, thirty-two Aspirantes have been accepted into medical or dental school with the help of the Aspira Process. Highlights of this year's program activities for the Essex County students include:

- Youth Expo '78
- Bilingual Work Experience Internship
- Tours to various State colleges and universities
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Career Day Conference
- Puerto Rican Discovery Day
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Aspira Annual Art Exhibit
- Workshops on: SAT, college applications, financial aid

Hudson County Center

This is the second year that this Center in Jersey City, funded by the Law Enforcement Administration Act, has been in existence. The Center theme is "Proyecto Armanecas" (Project Dawn) whose objective is prevention of juvenile delinquency. There are now five Aspira Clubs based at Hoboken and Ferris High Schools, and at neighborhood centers to reach those who do not attend school. The Club members work with the Police Department, community leaders, Division of Youth and Family Services, businesses and parents to involve dropouts and those in school who are failing or below grade level. Through counseling, tutorial services and recreational activities, Aspira encourages these teenagers to return to school or enroll in a high school diploma equivalency program. Among the activities in which the Hudson County Aspirantes were involved this year were:

- Law enforcement workshop
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Big Brother/Big Sister trip with younger children
- Tour of the United Nations and general assembly
- Puerto Rican Discovery Day
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Workshops on: career interests and school, student teaching, vocational technical careers and health careers
- Christmas toy drive

Passaic County Center

Located in Paterson, this Center serves the Passaic and Paterson school districts. Counselors are assigned to provide in-school services to one junior and four senior high schools. Central to the program which the Aspira Clubs offer is leadership skills development designed to offer a positive experience in school and deter students from dropping out; to help them develop a positive self-image; to develop planning and organization skills; and to provide them with the opportunity for personally rewarding cultural, educational and recreational activities. This year the Passaic County Center exceeded its goal of reaching and helping over 1,000 teenagers. Aspirantes participated in the following activities this year:

- Establishment of Aspira Passaic County Scholarship Fund
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Workshops in: rapid reading, self-image, impromptu speaking, Puerto Rican history and Black history
- Career Day Conference
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Aspira Awards Night
- Trips to State colleges and universities
- Workshops by college recruiters on post-secondary and financial aid opportunities



In Aspira Centers or in the schools themselves, the heart of the program is in person-to-person contact. All Aspirantes get very special attention whether it is counseling on school work or guidance for post-secondary education.



**Students Served
1969-1978**

Continuing Students
New Students

2146

1628

1464

1150

835

822

707

551

323

1969-70
1970-71
1971-72
1972-73
1973-74
1974-75
1975-76
1976-77
1977-78

**Post-secondary Placements
1969-1978**

College

Technical

Medical &
Graduate
Schools

1969-70
1970-71
1971-72
1972-73
1973-74
1974-75
1975-76
1976-77
1977-78

Post-secondary Placements 1978

New Jersey
 Bergen County Comm. Coll.
 Bloomfield College
 Burlington Community College
 Centenary College
 Douglass College (Rutgers)
 Drew University
 Essex County Comm. Coll.
 Fairleigh Dickinson University
 Felician College
 Hudson County Comm. Coll.
 Jersey City State College
 Kean College of New Jersey
 Livingston College (Rutgers)
 Middlesex County Comm. Coll.
 Monmouth Community College
 Montclair State College
 Morristown Community College
 New Jersey Institute of Tech.
 Passaic County Comm. Coll.
 Princeton University
 Ramapo College
 Rutgers College (New Brunswick)
 Rutgers College of Arts
 and Science (Newark)
 Rutgers College of Nursing
 Rutgers College of Pharmacy
 St. Elizabeth's College
 St. Peter's College
 School of Allied
 Health Professions-CMDNJ
 Seton Hall University
 Stockton State College
 Trenton State College
 William Paterson College
**Out-of-State Colleges
 and Universities**
 Arizona State University (Az.)
 Atlantic University (Mass.)
 Brevard Comm. Coll. (Fla.)
 Brigham Young (Utah)
 Brooks College (Ca.)
 Brown University (R.I.)
 Calvin College (Mich.)
 Carlow College (Pa.)
 Clarion State University (Pa.)
 Cornell University (N.Y.)
 Davis and Elkins U. (W.V.)
 Delaware State College (Del.)
 El Mira College (Mass.)
 Evangelical College (Mo.)
 Fisk University (Tenn.)
 Florida A. & M. (Fla.)
**Inter-American University
 of Puerto Rico (P.R.)**
 Kings College (N.Y.)
 Lincoln University (Pa.)
 Miami Dade College (Fla.)
 Middlebury College (Vt.)
 Morgan State College (Md.)
 Morris College (S.C.)
 North Eastern College (Mass.)
 St. John's University (N.Y.)
 Savannah University (Ga.)
 Shaw University (N.C.)
 So. Central Comm. Coll. (Ct.)
 U. of Las Americas (Mx.)
 University of Miami (Fla.)
 University of Puerto Rico (P.R.)
 West Texas University (Tx.)
 Yale University (Ct.)
**Vocational and
 Business Schools**
 Bell & Howell Tech.
 Berkley School of Business
 Capri Institute of Hair Design
 Century Court Reporting
 Court Reporting School
 Dr. Vry Technical Institute
 Empire Technical School
 Fashion Institute of New York
 First School of Secretary
 & Para-Legal
 Jersey City Medical Center
 Kathryn Gibbs
 Keubert School of Cartooning
 Lincoln Technical Institute
 Passaic County Technical
 & Vocational School
 Plaza School of Business
 Rett Technical School
 Robert Walsh Business School
 Roman Academy of Beauty
 Sawyer School
 Taylor Business Institute
 Teterboro Aviation School
 Wilfred Academy
Medical Schools
 College of Medicine and
 Dentistry in New Jersey —
 Medical and Dental Schools
 Rutgers Medical School
 St. Michael's Medical Center
 Wisconsin Medical School

Anura Malena Mewa

In radio and television appearances this year, Aspira brought the concerns of the Hispanic community to the attention of the New York and New Jersey public.

Appearing on WOR-TV, Ms. Grizel Ubarry discussed the controversy over admissions and jobs for Hispanics at the New Jersey College of Medicine. As guest on The Puerto Rican New Yorker, a half hour program produced by WPIX-TV, she was interviewed about Aspira's services and the current problems among school-age Hispanics.

Ms. Ubarry also participated in a week-long series of special broadcasts on Aspira, carried by WFME radio. During the five-minute feature segments, the executive director described the importance of Aspira's efforts in leadership development, educational and vocational counseling and innovative work in preparing young Hispanics for professional and educational careers.

Shown here are excerpts from articles which appeared last year:

| Financial Highlights | Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey | | | |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances | | | |
| | Year ended June 30, 1978 | | | |
| Current funds | | | | |
| | Unrestricted | Restricted | Fixed asset fund | Total all funds |
| Support, grants and revenue: | | | | |
| Government grants | \$ 10,000 | \$ 217,351 | | \$ 227,351 |
| Aspira of America, Inc. | 3,750 | 99,716 | | 103,466 |
| Foundations | 15,000 | | | 15,000 |
| Donated services | 17,932 | 49,685 | | 67,517 |
| Corporations | 18,420 | 3,500 | | 21,920 |
| United Way | 22,296 | | | 22,296 |
| Miscellaneous | 3,075 | | | 3,075 |
| Total support and revenue | 90,473 | 370,252 | | 460,725 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Program services: | | | | |
| Health career opportunities | | 88,049 | | 88,049 |
| Other career and educational counseling | 9,317 | 286,244 | | 295,561 |
| Total program services | 9,317 | 374,293 | | 383,610 |
| Supporting services: | | | | |
| Management and general | 84,713 | | \$ 1,729 | 86,442 |
| Fund raising | 12,150 | | | 12,150 |
| Total supporting services | 76,863 | | 1,729 | 78,592 |
| Total expenses | 86,180 | 374,293 | 1,729 | 462,202 |
| Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses | 4,293 | (4,041) | (1,729) | (1,477) |
| Fund balances, beginning | 10,050 | 16,504 | 8,552 | 33,106 |
| Fund balances, ending | \$ 14,343 | \$ 12,463 | \$ 4,823 | \$ 31,629 |

Complete auditor's report available from Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey upon request.

Financial Highlights**Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey**
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year ended June 30, 1978

| | Program services | | | Supporting services | | Total expenses | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | Health career opportunities | Other career and educational counseling | Total | Management and general | Fund raising | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | \$ 52,383 | \$ 207,967 | \$ 270,350 | \$ 35,431 | \$ 35,431 | \$ 305,781 | |
| Payroll taxes and fringe benefits | 5,330 | 25,436 | 30,766 | 7,099 | 7,099 | 37,865 | |
| Total salaries and fringe benefits | 67,713 | 233,403 | 301,116 | 42,530 | 42,530 | 343,646 | |
| Occupancy | 3,593 | 14,810 | 18,203 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 20,003 | |
| Telephone and postage | 3,189 | 8,559 | 11,748 | 4,634 | 4,634 | 16,382 | |
| Supplies and equipment rental | 3,421 | 15,051 | 18,472 | 6,989 | 6,989 | 25,461 | |
| Professional fees and contract service payments | 3,700 | 3,943 | 7,643 | \$ 12,150 | 12,150 | 19,793 | |
| Travel | 1,198 | 8,766 | 9,964 | 2,077 | 2,077 | 12,041 | |
| Program activities | 2,563 | 4,540 | 7,103 | 2,293 | 2,293 | 9,396 | |
| Program materials | 1,488 | 5,179 | 6,665 | | | 6,665 | |
| Miscellaneous | 525 | 897 | 1,422 | 4,274 | 4,274 | 5,696 | |
| Total expenses before depreciation | 87,388 | 294,948 | 382,336 | 64,597 | 12,150 | 76,747 | |
| Depreciation | 661 | 613 | 1,274 | 1,845 | 1,845 | 3,119 | |
| Total expenses | \$ 88,049 | \$ 295,561 | \$ 383,610 | \$ 66,442 | \$ 12,150 | \$ 78,592 | |

Complete auditor's report available from Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey upon request.

Private Grants and Contributions (to March 30, 1979)

Airco, Inc.
 Bell Laboratories
 Broadway Bank & Trust Co.
 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
 Edwards and Kelcey, Inc.
 Fidelity Union Trust Co.
 First National
 State Bank of N.J.
 Hoffmann-La Roche Foundation
 Jersey Central Power & Light Co.

Johnson & Johnson
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 Fanny & Svania Knistrom Foundation
 Midland National Bank
 Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.
 Nabisco, Inc.
 New Jersey Bell
 The New York Community Trust
 Prudential Insurance Co. of America

Public Service Electric & Gas Co.
 Sandoz Co.
 Schering-Plough Corp.
 The Florence & John Schumann Foundation
 Supermarkets General
 The Turrell Fund
 United Way
 Victoria Foundation

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey

Annual Report

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July 1, 1977 to
June 30, 1978

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Centers

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